About LEVEL news

Contents

Fall Storm Season Begins

IJC Appoints Distinguished Environmental Scientist to International St. Lawrence River Board of Control

Stormy Season Begins

Lakes Superior and Ontario Regulation

Last Edition for Six-month Subscribers

September Precipitation

September Outflows

Water Levels for the Great Lakes and Montreal Harbour ... *a monthly bulletin from Canadian Hydrographic Service*

About the monthly Water Level bulletin

September Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Great Lakes Basin	111%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	85%
Lake Superior	138%

LEVEL news

Volume 7, Number 10 **October 8, 1999**

Great Lake Levels Continue to Decline

Fall Storm Season Begins

Lake Superior water levels rose slightly during the first half of September, in response to precipitation, then began to decline again, ending the month 3 cm lower than at the start of the month. Currently, the lake is about 14 cm below average, but 12 cm higher than the level of a year ago.

Water levels on the other Great Lakes also continued with their seasonal decline. Lake Ontario, however, experienced a temporary rise of a few centimetres due to the rainfall in September.

At the beginning of October, Lake Huron is 31 cm below seasonal average and 40 cm below its level of a year ago. Lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario are 12 to 14 cm below average. Both Lakes St. Clair and Erie are around 37 cm below their levels of last year, while Lake Ontario is about 8 cm lower than its level recorded a year ago.

The levels of all lakes are expected to continue to decline in October. Mariners are cautioned that below average water level conditions will continue to prevail.

The remnants of Hurricane Floyd passed over the lower St. Lawrence River basin in mid-September dropping a significant amount of rainfall. Several other weather systems that followed later in the month also brought moisture to the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River system. They brought improvements to the levels at the Port of Montréal, where levels which have been below chart datum since July saw a recovery to near chart datum conditions by late September. Although there have been some improvements also on Lake St. Louis (located immediately upstream of Montréal), low water levels in that part of the St. Lawrence River remain a subject of concern to Seaway vessels transiting between Montréal and Lake Ontario.

IJC Appoints Distinguished Environmental Scientist to International St. Lawrence River Board of Control

The International Joint Commission (IJC) has appointed Dr. Theodore L. Hullar as a member of its International St. Lawrence River Board of Control

Lakes Michigan-Huron	96%
Lake Ontario	138%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

September Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Lake Superior	105%
Lake Erie	91%
Lake Huron	91%
Lake Ontario	88%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

Last Issue

Next Issue

Issue Index

Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

(the Board). Dr. Hullar serves as director of the Cornell University Center for the Environment and brings to the Board more than 25 years of experience in dealing with environmental and water issues.

After careful consideration of all the names put forward, the six IJC Commissioners selected Dr. Hullar as the best qualified candidate to serve in the interests of the entire Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River system and to fill the needs of the Board at this time, particularly the need for environmental expertise.

For more information on this appointment to the Board and other IJC activities please visit the IJC web site or call Fabien Lengellé of the IJC in Ottawa at (613) 995-0088.

Stormy Season Begins

The decline in water levels experienced over the last two years will help reduce the risk of serious flood and erosion damage to shore property due to storms this Fall. While the risk to shore property is reduced, readers are reminded to exercise caution when near the water's edge during a storm event. Over the years, many people standing too close to the water during a storm have been seriously injured, even killed, when struck by a wave generated by the storm.

Lakes Superior and Ontario Regulation

The outflows of Lake Superior and Lake Ontario during October are expected to be the amount specified by their respective regulation plan.

Last Edition for Six-month Subscribers

For those of you who are on our mailing list for the Water Level Bulletin and Level News for the six months from Spring to Fall only, this is the last edition you will receive this year. You will automatically start receiving both publications again in May 2000. If you would like to check water level conditions between now and then, please call us at one of the phone numbers provided in the For More Information box, or, if you have access to the internet you can visit the Our Great Lakes site.

Top of Page
Français | Contact Us | Help | Search | Canada Site
What's New | Topics | Publications | Weather | Home | About Us

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URL: http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/water/level-news/lvn99oct-e.html